

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 877

By West

A RESOLUTION to commend Phil Ponder for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as a Member of the Metropolitan Nashville City Council.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Phil Ponder is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as a Member of the Metropolitan Nashville City Council, Mr. Ponder has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, beginning his tenure representing the Twelfth District as a Metro Council Member in 1995, Mr. Ponder was re-elected in 1999 for an additional four-year term which concluded on August 31, 2003; due to term limits, Mr. Ponder was unable to pursue a third term; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ponder served with distinction on a broader variety of committees than any of the other thirty-nine members of the council; such committees included the Aviation/Transportation, Budget, Education, Traffic, Park/Libraries, and Planning Committees; and

WHEREAS, acting as the Chairman of the Traffic Committee from 1997 until 1999, Mr. Ponder concurrently served as a voting member of the Metro Traffic Planning Commission; while acting as Chairman of the Planning Committee from 1999 until 2001, he concurrently served as a voting member of the Planning and Zoning Commission; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ponder served as a facilitator for the Bicycle, Pedestrian Needs, and Traffic Calming Advisory Committee for two years, and was also a candidate for Vice Mayor of Metro Nashville in a special election held in August 2002; and

WHEREAS, elected by fellow Council Members to serve as President Pro Tempore of the Council in 2002, Mr. Ponder served in that capacity until the end of his term with Metro Council; and

WHEREAS, playing an integral part of the development of the Hermitage Community Complex at Central Pike and Dodson Chapel Road, Mr. Ponder assisted with obtaining the donation of the twenty-two acre property by HCA and assisted with securing a portion of the donated property for the location of the Hermitage Police Precinct; he was instrumental in establishing a location for the Hermitage Community Complex and new Hermitage Branch Library within the Complex; he chaired the Committee that planned, financed, and coordinated the construction of the children's playground and extensive boardwalk in the park area of the Complex; and he, along with Metro Parks Department personnel, helped coordinate the development of "Cleared for Landing", an outdoor public art sculpture, as well as parking areas and walking trails in the park; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to improving education, Mr. Ponder was influential in assuring the location of the new Ruby Mason Elementary in the Twelfth District; and

WHEREAS, understanding the value of commitment, Mr. Ponder faithfully attended regular Council and Committee Meetings, missing only two regular Council Meetings and rarely missing a Committee Meeting throughout his eight-year tenure; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ponder worked diligently to sponsor legislation that affected regulations, zoning, infrastructure improvements, and educational needs, thus greatly improving life in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ponder's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, though his term with the Metro Council has ended, Mr. Ponder continues to actively work toward bettering his community through his current work with Congressman Cooper; and

WHEREAS, not only serving as a source of pride for Nashville through his selfless acts of service to the community, Mr. Ponder is also an internationally known artist who, for over two decades, has employed a unique style of painting in depicting historic structures found in Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ponder is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ponder is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State", and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Phil Ponder for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as a Member of the Metropolitan Nashville City Council and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.